

only 8 percent of the COVID vaccines allocated so far.

Sadly, these statistics come as no surprise. America has a long history of medical inequality. From premature births to premature deaths, people of color suffer disproportionately from America's troubled health care system. People of color in America suffer more chronic and acute health conditions. They are more likely to go without needed medical care, and they have shorter life expectancies. According to new estimates from the CDC, life expectancy in the United States fell by a full year as COVID-19 swept through the Nation last year—the steepest decline in life expectancy since World War II. Again, the pain was unequal. Latinx Americans' life expectancy declined by 2 years and Black Americans' by 3 years. The reasons for the disparities are many and varied, but they include unequal access to affordable healthcare, inadequate research, and too few healthcare professionals of color.

Martin Luther King called healthcare inequality “the most shocking and inhumane” form of injustice. Far too often, this inequality begins even before birth. It should shock our consciences that the United States, one of the wealthiest nations on Earth, has one of the world's poorest records for maternal and infant health. Think of this: The United States is one of only 13 nations in the world where the maternal mortality rate is worse now than it was 25 years ago. Every year in America, nearly 1,000 women die from pregnancy-related complications and 70,000 others suffer near-fatal complications as a result of pregnancy. Now consider this: Women of color in the United States are three times more likely than White women to die as a result of their pregnancy. In Illinois, they are six times as likely to die. What makes these maternal deaths even more tragic is that an estimated 60 percent of them are preventable. The same is true of many infant deaths. Every year in America, more than 23,000 infants die due to factors that, in many cases, could be prevented. Among the 35 wealthiest nations in the world, the United States ranks 32nd in infant mortality. Again, the risks are unequal. Black babies are twice as likely to die in their first year of life as White babies.

I have given a lot of thought and spoken with many experts about how we can bridge this racial divide. This week, I am reintroducing a bill with Senator DUCKWORTH that I believe can decrease America's rates of maternal and infant sickness and deaths, especially among those of color. It is called the MOMMA Act. My companion in the House is Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY of Chicago. She and I have introduced this bill for the last two Congresses. It is time to make it law.

First and foremost, the MOMMA Act would expand Medicaid coverage for new moms from 60 days to a full year

postpartum. Making sure new moms have health coverage for a full year postpregnancy will go a long way toward catching, preventing, and treating potentially life-threatening conditions and problems. This is critical because in some States—like Illinois—nearly 60 percent of pregnancy-associated deaths occur between 43 and 364 days postpartum. Many States' Medicaid Programs, including Illinois's are strapped for cash, and the pandemic has increased their shortfalls. In addition, our bill would provide States with guidance and options to expand their Medicaid coverage to include doulas, who are often invaluable assets and advocates for pregnant women. Next, our bill would save lives by improving health care education and training to reduce the unconscious biases and discrimination that women of color too often encounter from healthcare professionals. Lastly, our bill would improve hospital coordination and reporting on maternal health outcomes. Accurate reporting will enable us to chart our progress and make adjustments where and when they are needed.

Among the women at greatest risk of pregnancy-related health complications are women who are incarcerated. Again, the risks for Black women are greater. To help these mothers and their babies, Senator BOOKER and I have introduced a separate bill. The Justice for Incarcerated Moms Act helps incarcerated pregnant women and new mothers with access to doulas and other health workers, as well as counseling, because a jail sentence should never be a death sentence for a mother or her newborn. As the poet Maya Angelou told us, we can't change the past. But when we know better, we must do better. We now know how we can do better to protect the lives of pregnant women and newborn babies. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting these two important measures to give mothers and babies the healthy start in life that they deserve.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President the Committee on Finance has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 117th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying rules for the Senate Committee on Finance be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

##### I. RULES OF PROCEDURE

(ADOPTED FEBRUARY XX, 2021)

Rule 1. Regular Meeting Days.—The regular meeting day of the committee shall be the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, except that if there be no business before the committee the regular meeting shall be omitted.

Rule 2. Committee Meetings.—(a) Except as provided by paragraph 3 of Rule XXVI of

the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to special meetings called by a majority of the committee) and subsection (b) of this rule, committee meetings, for the conduct of business, for the purpose of holding hearings, or for any other purpose, shall be called by the chairman after consultation with the ranking minority member. Members will be notified of committee meetings at least 48 hours in advance, unless the chairman determines that an emergency situation requires a meeting on shorter notice. The notification will include a written agenda together with materials prepared by the staff relating to that agenda. After the agenda for a committee meeting is published and distributed, no nongermane items may be brought up during that meeting unless at least two-thirds of the members present agree to consider those items.

(b) In the absence of the chairman, meetings of the committee may be called by the ranking majority member of the committee who is present, provided authority to call meetings has been delegated to such member by the chairman.

Rule 3. Presiding Officer.—(a) The chairman shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the committee except that in his absence the ranking majority member who is present at the meeting shall preside.

(b) Notwithstanding the rule prescribed by subsection (a) any member of the committee may preside over the conduct of a hearing.

Rule 4. Quorums.—(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) one-third of the membership of the committee, including not less than one member of the majority party and one member of the minority party, shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

(b) Notwithstanding the rule prescribed by subsection (a), one member shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

Rule 5. Reporting of Measures or Recommendations.—No measure or recommendation shall be reported from the committee unless a majority of the committee is actually present and a majority of those present concur.

Rule 6. Proxy Voting; Polling.—(a) Except as provided by paragraph 7(a)(3) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to limitation on use of proxy voting to report a measure or matter), members who are unable to be present may have their vote recorded by proxy.

(b) At the discretion of the committee, members who are unable to be present and whose vote has not been cast by proxy may be polled for the purpose of recording their vote on any rollcall taken by the committee.

Rule 7. Order of Motions.—When several motions are before the committee dealing with related or overlapping matters, the chairman may specify the order in which the motions shall be voted upon.

Rule 8. Bringing a Matter to a Vote.—If the chairman determines that a motion or amendment has been adequately debated, he may call for a vote on such motion or amendment, and the vote shall then be taken, unless the committee votes to continue debate on such motion or amendment, as the case may be. The vote on a motion to continue debate on any motion or amendment shall be taken without debate.

Rule 9. Public Announcement of Committee Votes.—Pursuant to paragraph 7(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to public announcement of votes), the results of rollcall votes taken by the committee on any measure (or amendment thereto) or matter shall be announced publicly not later than the day on which such measure or matter is ordered reported from the committee.

Rule 10. Subpoenas.—Witnesses and memoranda, documents, and records may be subpoenaed by the chairman of the committee

with the agreement of the ranking minority member or by a majority vote of the committee. Subpoenas for attendance of witnesses and the production of memoranda, documents, and records shall be issued by the chairman, or by any other member of the committee designated by him.

**Rule 11. Nominations.**—In considering a nomination, the committee may conduct an investigation or review of the nominee's experience, qualifications, and suitability, to serve in the position to which he or she has been nominated. To aid in such investigation or review, each nominee may be required to submit a sworn detailed statement including biographical, financial, policy, and other information which the committee may request. The committee may specify which items in such statement are to be received on a confidential basis. Witnesses called to testify on the nomination may be required to testify under oath.

**Rule 12. Open Committee Hearings.**—To the extent required by paragraph 5 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to limitations on open hearings), each hearing conducted by the committee shall be open to the public.

**Rule 13. Announcement of Hearings.**—The committee shall undertake consistent with the provisions of paragraph 4(a) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to public notice of committee hearings) to issue public announcements of hearings it intends to hold at least one week prior to the commencement of such hearings.

**Rule 14. Witnesses at Hearings.**—(a) Each witness who is scheduled to testify at any hearing must submit his written testimony to the staff director not later than noon of the business day immediately before the last business day preceding the day on which he is scheduled to appear. Such written testimony shall be accompanied by a brief summary of the principal points covered in the written testimony. Having submitted his written testimony, the witness shall be allowed not more than ten minutes for oral presentation of his statement.

(b) Witnesses may not read their entire written testimony, but must confine their oral presentation to a summarization of their arguments.

(c) Witnesses shall observe proper standards of dignity, decorum, and propriety while presenting their views to the committee. Any witness who violates this rule shall be dismissed, and his testimony (both oral and written) shall not appear in the record of the hearing.

(d) In scheduling witnesses for hearings, the staff shall attempt to schedule witnesses so as to attain a balance of views early in the hearings. Every member of the committee may designate witnesses who will appear before the committee to testify. To the extent that a witness designated by a member cannot be scheduled to testify during the time set aside for the hearing, a special time will be set aside for the witness to testify if the member designating that witness is available at that time to chair the hearing.

**Rule 15. Audiences.**—Persons admitted into the audience for open hearings of the committee shall conduct themselves with the dignity, decorum, courtesy, and propriety traditionally observed by the Senate. Demonstrations of approval or disapproval of any statement or act by any member or witness are not allowed. Persons creating confusion or distractions or otherwise disrupting the orderly proceeding of the hearing shall be expelled from the hearing.

**Rule 16. Broadcasting of Hearings.**—(a) Broadcasting of open hearings by television or radio coverage shall be allowed upon approval by the chairman of a request filed with the staff director not later than noon of

the day before the day on which such coverage is desired.

(b) If such approval is granted, broadcasting coverage of the hearing shall be conducted unobtrusively and in accordance with the standards of dignity, propriety, courtesy, and decorum traditionally observed by the Senate.

(c) Equipment necessary for coverage by television and radio media shall not be installed in, or removed from, the hearing room while the committee is in session.

(d) Additional lighting may be installed in the hearing room by the media in order to raise the ambient lighting level to the lowest level necessary to provide adequate television coverage of the hearing at the then current state of the art of television coverage.

(e) The additional lighting authorized by subsection (d) of this rule shall not be directed into the eyes of any members of the committee or of any witness, and at the request of any such member or witness, offending lighting shall be extinguished.

**Rule 17. Subcommittees.**—(a) The chairman, subject to the approval of the committee, shall appoint legislative subcommittees. The ranking minority member shall recommend to the chairman appointment of minority members to the subcommittees. All legislation shall be kept on the full committee calendar unless a majority of the members present and voting agree to refer specific legislation to an appropriate subcommittee.

(b) The chairman may limit the period during which House-passed legislation referred to a subcommittee under paragraph (a) will remain in that subcommittee. At the end of that period, the legislation will be restored to the full committee calendar. The period referred to in the preceding sentences should be 6 weeks, but may be extended in the event that adjournment or a long recess is imminent.

(c) All decisions of the chairman are subject to approval or modification by a majority vote of the committee.

(d) The full committee may at any time by majority vote of those members present discharge a subcommittee from further consideration of a specific piece of legislation.

(e) The chairman and ranking minority members shall serve as nonvoting ex officio members of the subcommittees on which they do not serve as voting members.

(f) Any member of the committee may attend hearings held by any subcommittee and question witnesses testifying before that subcommittee.

(g) Subcommittee meeting times shall be coordinated by the staff director to ensure that—

(1) no subcommittee meeting will be held when the committee is in executive session, except by unanimous consent;

(2) no more than one subcommittee will meet when the full committee is holding hearings; and

(3) not more than two subcommittees will meet at the same time. Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3), a subcommittee may meet when the full committee is holding hearings and two subcommittees may meet at the same time only upon the approval of the chairman and the ranking minority member of the committee and subcommittees involved.

(h) All nominations shall be considered by the full committee.

(i) The chairman will attempt to schedule reasonably frequent meetings of the full committee to permit consideration of legislation reported favorably to the committee by the subcommittees.

**Rule 18. Transcripts of Committee Meetings.**—An accurate record shall be kept of all

markups of the committee, whether they be open or closed to the public. A transcript, marked as "uncorrected," shall be available for inspection by members of the Senate, or members of the committee together with their staffs, at any time. Not later than 21 business days after the meeting occurs, the committee shall make publicly available through the Internet—

(a) a video recording;

(b) an audio recording; or

(c) after all members of the committee have had a reasonable opportunity to correct their remarks for grammatical errors or to accurately reflect statements, a corrected transcript.

Notwithstanding the above, in the case of the record of an executive session of the committee that is closed to the public pursuant to Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the record shall not be published or made public in any way except by majority vote of the committee after all members of the committee have had a reasonable opportunity to correct their remarks for grammatical errors or to accurately reflect statements made.

**Rule 19. Amendment of Rules.**—The foregoing rules may be added to, modified, amended, or suspended at any time.

## II. EXCERPTS FROM THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE RELATING TO STANDING COMMITTEES

### RULE XXV STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The following standing committees shall be appointed at the commencement of each Congress, and shall continue and have the power to act until their successors are appointed, with leave to report by bill or otherwise on matters within their respective jurisdictions:

(i) Committee on Finance, to which committee shall be referred all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

1. Bonded debt of the United States, except as provided in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Customs, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery.

3. Deposit of public moneys.

4. General revenue sharing.

5. Health programs under the Social Security Act and health programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund.

6. National social security.

7. Reciprocal trade agreements.

8. Revenue measures generally, except as provided in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

9. Revenue measures relating to the insular possessions.

10. Tariffs and import quotas, and matters related thereto.

11. Transportation of dutiable goods.

### RULE XXVI COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

2. Each committee shall adopt rules (not inconsistent with the Rules of the Senate) governing the procedure of such committee. The rules of each committee shall be published in the Congressional Record not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress, except that if any such committee is established on or after February 1 of a year, the rules of that committee during the year of establishment shall be published in the Congressional Record not later than sixty days after such establishment. Any amendment to the rules of a committee shall not take effect until the amendment is published in the Congressional Record.

5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules, when the Senate is in session,

no committee of the Senate or any subcommittee thereof may meet, without special leave, after the conclusion of the first two hours after the meeting of the Senate commenced and in no case after two o'clock post meridian unless consent thereof has been obtained from the majority leader and the minority leader (or in the event of the absence of either of such leaders, from his designee). The prohibition contained in the preceding sentence shall not apply to the Committee on Appropriations or the Committee on the Budget. The majority leader or his designee shall announce to the Senate whenever consent has been given under this subparagraph and shall state the time and place of such meeting. The right to make such announcement of consent shall have the same priority as the filing of a cloture motion.

(b) Each meeting of a committee, or any subcommittee thereof, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by a committee or a subcommittee thereof on the same subject for a period of no more than fourteen calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in clauses (1) through (6) would require the meeting to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets of financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

(c) Whenever any hearing conducted by any such committee or subcommittee is open to the public, that hearing may be broadcast by radio or television, or both, under such rules as the committee or subcommittee may adopt.

(d) Whenever disorder arises during a committee meeting that is open to the public, or any demonstration of approval or disapproval is indulged in by any person in attendance at any such meeting, it shall be the duty of the Chair to enforce order on his own initiative and without any point of order being made by a Senator. When the Chair

finds it necessary to maintain order, he shall have the power to clear the room, and the committee may act in closed session for so long as there is doubt of the assurance of order.

(e) Each committee shall prepare and keep a complete transcript or electronic recording adequate to fully record the proceeding of each meeting or conference whether or not such meeting or any part thereof is closed under this paragraph, unless a majority of its members vote to forgo such a record.

#### NOMINATION OF MIGUEL A. CARDONA

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of Dr. Miguel Cardona's nomination to serve as Secretary of Education and to urge my colleagues to confirm him to this position.

Dr. Cardona will bring a deep understanding of the needs of students and teachers, a firm grasp of our educational system, and a fresh perspective to the Department of Education.

Dr. Cardona was the first in his immediate family to go to college. He is the father of two school-aged children, and he brings to this role decades of experience as an educator, having served as an elementary school teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent.

Throughout his career, Dr. Cardona has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of students. He has fought to make sure college is accessible for all students. As the education commissioner for the State of Connecticut, he was on the frontlines helping his state tackle the complex issues facing their schools during the pandemic.

In his opening statement before the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Dr. Cardona reaffirmed his commitment to forging opportunity out of crisis. He also recognized the need to address educational inequities head-on and build a better future for the next generation.

He has the track record to show he understands the value of education and knows how to get things done. Under Dr. Cardona's leadership, Connecticut became the first State in the Nation to ensure that all of its public school students had access to a laptop and a high-speed internet connection to engage in remote learning during the pandemic. At another point in Dr. Cardona's career, he led a task force to help figure out how to close the academic achievement gap among students in his State.

The value of education is something that is personal to me.

My grandpa worked 1,500 feet underground in the mines of Ely, and he never graduated from high school, but he knew the value of a quality education, saving money in a coffee can in the basement to send my dad to college.

My dad graduated from Vermilion Community College and earned his graduate degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota. He went on to be a sports reporter and a newspaper columnist.

My mom was a public school teacher who taught second grade until she was 70 years old. She loved teaching. Her favorite unit was the monarch butterfly unit, where we would dress up as a monarch butterfly, and she would teach the kids about metamorphosis. She would also wear that monarch butterfly costume to the supermarket. She was dressed as this big monarch butterfly with little antennas on her head and a sign that said "to Mexico or bust" because that is where the monarch would fly on its way from Canada through Minnesota and down.

At the visitation on the night before my mom's funeral, I met a family. I had never met them before, but the mom was sobbing, and she had an older son who had a severe disability. The mom said, "You know, your mom had my son here in school when he was in second grade. Now he was grown up, and he said he always loved that monarch butterfly unit. And after he graduated, he got a job bagging groceries, and your mom would continue to go to the grocery store and she would stand in line in her monarch butterfly outfit. For years she did this, and would always give him a big hug when she got to the end of the line." That was my mom, and she loved her kids, and she was a devoted teacher.

I learned the value of education from my parents and grandparents, and I believe that it is a basic right that we have in this country that every child should have a right to education. I know that Dr. Miguel Cardona also believes in that right, and this is why I support his confirmation as Secretary of Education. I will also note that several of my Republican colleagues, including Senator BURR, ranking member on the HELP Committee, have come to the same conclusion.

This past year has been like no other, filled with tremendous challenges for students, educators, and families. As a result of this pandemic, parents have had to teach their first graders how to use the mute button to go to school. The crisis has taken a toll on the mental health of students and educators. There is major work to do to make sure that all students can catch up on lost learning caused by gaps in access to technology and broadband during the pandemic.

Thankfully, there is now light at the end of the tunnel with the development and distribution of vaccines that protect against the coronavirus and stand to save millions of lives. Our country now faces important decisions about how to safely and equitably return to in-person learning, and we need strong, thoughtful leadership to help guide these decisions and get our country back up and running. That means leadership we can trust to provide guidance that is driven by science and by public health experts. It also means leadership that will support the rights of all students to have a full and enriching educational experience.